



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Crime Prevention Unit



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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Important Numbers:

- * **Emergency 911**
- * **Non-Emergency**
703-777-1021
703-777-0445
- * **Poison Control**
1-800-222-1222
- * **Animal Control**
703-777-0406
- * **Sheriff's Office Admin**
703-777-0407
- * **Narcotic Tip Line**
703-779-0552
- * **Crime Solvers**
703-777-1919

WARNING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WE ARE WATCHING TO
REPORT SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY OR PERSONS

TO

**LOUDOUN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Issue 15

January 1, 2010

Post Holiday Identity Theft

As we began to settle down from the holiday rush and try to get back in to our daily routines we need to be mindful of a few things.

This time of year is a prime time for Identity Thieves to be collecting information on citizens. Citizens often discard gift receipts, bills, invoices, and statement with other holiday trash. These items are all that is necessary for identity thieves to take advantage of your good name.

To help citizens combat this possibility and make them aware of the potential hazards related to this type of crime, they are encouraged to do the following:

- When purchasing gifts always get a gift receipt.

Should the recipients need to exchange the gift there is no risk to your personal information.

- Save all receipts, invoices, and bills and check them carefully against your bank and credit card statements .
- Continue to retain your receipts until the purchase has cleared your account. That way you can identify any suspicious transactions.
- When ready to dispose of you receipts be sure to shred them and dispose of them in a responsible manner. (NOTE: the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office sponsors Shred Events numerous time during the year.)

- If you believe you have been the victim of credit card/bank fraud, or identity theft contact law enforcement immediately and make a report.

**To make a report call
703-777-1021.**



Open Garage Doors.....

We have recently seen a number of incidents where thieves are simply entering open garages and stealing items from vehicles and homes.

Open garage doors are a nightly occurrence for the Sheriff's Office. Our patrol deputies routinely see open garages and in many cases attempt to contact the

home owner to make them aware of the situation. The behavior puts both your property and family at risk since many resident do not lock the interior door to the garage since the assume the garage door is closed. In some cases thieves have entered homes and stolen items right from the kitchen counter as residents watched TV or slept inside the home.

Additionally citizens do not take expensive items out of their vehicles or even lock them if they are parked in their garage. This places both the contents and the vehicle at risk. **Be sure to check your garage door before heading off to bed or before it gets dark outside.**

Frequently Asked Questions

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to
Nathaniel.Payne@loudoun.gov or **James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov**

Airbag Thefts from Vehicles

Loudoun County has recently experienced a number of thefts of airbag modules from vehicles. The thieves typically force entry into the vehicle and remove the steering wheel center mounted airbag and the passenger side airbag modules. These modules are very expensive and can be sold to dealerships and repair shops for profit. These modules take a few minutes to remove so that is the time

we need to get a deputy there to apprehend the suspects. We are asking for the public's help in catching the individuals. If you see any unusual activity in or around vehicles in your area please contact our dispatch center so a deputy can come and check on the activity.

Non-Emergency Number:
703-777-1021



Air Soft Guns and BB Guns

Post Christmas incidents involving Air Soft Guns and BB Guns have already started to occur. We would like to strongly encourage parents to be aware of what your children may be doing with these toys and where they may be doing it. Many of these toys look identical to the real firearms and there have been near tragic consequences in our and other jurisdictions. These toys are sold with a neon orange barrel tip to help them to be identified as toys. Unfortunately, it has become popular for youth to color these tips black using paint or permanent markers. This makes the toys appear to be real firearms and can potentially put the user at risk. The use of these toys is also regulated by Loudoun County Code and parents should be aware of the restrictions on their use before sending their child out to play with these toys.

Included on page three is the County Ordinance and a map referenced in the ordinance.



Can you tell which one is the toy?

Go to: <http://arniesairsoft.co.uk/news2/1578> for the answer

Now think about a deputy having to making that decision in 1/4 to 1/2 of a second.

Upcoming Events

January 9th 10:30 am: Sterling Community Center– Introduction to Neighborhood Watch

4:00 pm: Lansdowne Potomac Club – Identity Theft

January 21st 7:00 pm: Dominion High School – Gang Awareness

6:00pm: Dulles South Public Safety Center — Business Watch Meeting

January 25th 7:00pm: Dulles South Public Safety Center— Community Meeting

684.02 DISCHARGING BB GUNS IN HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS.

- (a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to provide against the shooting of air-operated, carbon dioxide gas-operated and spring-operated weapons in heavily populated areas of the County, under authority granted the County in Section 15.2-1209 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended.
- (b) **Definition.** "BB gun," for the purposes of this section, means and includes any air gun, air rifle and similar device designed and intended to expel a projectile through a gun barrel of any length by means of expansion or release of compressed carbon dioxide gas or compressed air or by a combination of spring action and compressed air. The term "BB gun" includes, but is not limited to, devices commonly referred to as paint ball guns, which operate by this means.
- (c) **Unlawful.** No person shall discharge any BB gun in the unincorporated portion of the County, except those areas zoned A-3, A-10 or A-25 under the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance. This section shall not be deemed to prohibit the following acts:
- (1) Any shooting or discharge of BB guns upon a lawfully existing target, trap or skeet range;
 - (2) Any shooting or discharge of BB guns upon a target range operated by any police department or other law enforcement agency;
 - (3) Any discharge of BB guns in an entirely indoor target range, provided that adequate provisions are made to retain within the structure all projectiles discharged; and
 - (4) Any discharge of an unloaded BB gun, or any discharge of a BB gun not resulting in the expulsion of a projectile.
- (Ord. 00-07. Passed 7-8-00.)

